

Our country imported 4.8 billion barrels of oil in total energy-related products in 2007 valued at \$319 billion. Imagine if we would have been able to spend those dollars here at home what an injection that would be into this economy with the value of the dollar falling, so much related to imports, the economy tanking, the housing market in freefall and Americans feeling the true pinch of all of this. Our government here in Washington has not provided the leadership needed to end this plunge into national subservience.

The solution is clear: energy independence now. First, we have to look to our natural resources and pass a good farm bill to unleash the power of the earth and nature as a key part of the solution. And while there has been plenty of talk from our President about energy independence, the insistence on vetoing a bill, that does not live within artificial budget limits that he has declared, is an absurdity that threatens to destroy our progress. A good farm bill invests in rural America, providing an investment in infrastructure and research, including the energy technologies of tomorrow.

Second, we must continue to rely on the advanced research technology organized by the National Renewable Energy Lab and give this lab the resources to define and help redefine our new energy future. We need no less a commitment than we envisioned when we created NASA and space exploration. With that came security, and now we need energy security. It is that high a priority. This Congress, this President should be working to that end.

And third, we must pass legislation to fund the energy bill that passed the House last year, and then again this year, and call on our brethren in the other body to take action.

Unless we commit to providing leadership to transform our economy, this discussion remains the rhetoric of the last century really leaving us with a confused and unfulfilled daydream that has repeated itself for the last three decades.

As the American people face \$4 gasoline and see our wealth drained from us, we must take a new course. We are past the point of words. Real deeds are required. And we must stop our economic hemorrhaging and begin investing in our own Midwest, in our own country, not the Middle East, and pass on a free republic to our posterity worthy of the sacrifices of our founders and all those who gave their all in freedom's cause.

Liberty's call in this new century demands energy independence now.

□ 1945

SALUTING JORDAN LEEN, NATIONAL CHAMPION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because every now and then a person's story will so inspire us that the example is set for all young people to look up to, to follow in their footsteps. And that happened 9 days ago to a young man from East Tennessee whom so many people are so very proud of today.

His name is Jordan Leen. And 9 days ago, in the 157 pound weight class at Cornell University, Jordan Leen achieved his life's ambition of becoming a national champion. Among all universities from sea to shining sea, against some very difficult odds, this young man became a national champion.

He has moved up weight classes in his last couple of years at Cornell until he got comfortable and didn't have to lose weight to wrestle. So this is probably about his natural weight. He's what my son would call a "beast." I've seen him in all ways of his life.

He beat the number one seed, even though he was seeded eighth going into the tournament in the quarter finals, and he beat the number two seed in the finals just 3-2 in the most hard-fought match you've ever seen. And it was glorious. It was electric. He was distinguished through his high school career. And I want to focus on three things that made Jordan Leen a champion so others can look up to him and know that these are some of the ingredients for success.

One is family. His father, Mark; his mother, Tammy; his sisters, Andrea and Tara, they're a unit. The scriptural principle is that a cord of three strands is not easily broken; and with the Leens, a cord of five strands is not broken. They're a unit. They're a team. I know this because this young champion grew up across the street from me. He and my son, Weston, are best friends. This was a glorious moment not just in my family's life but in all of these Tennesseans' because this family was represented on the mat in front of the national ESPN audience a week ago Saturday, and we all took joy in this accomplishment from this fighter. He had been sick the week of the national championship, but he battled through that to become a national champion.

Ingredient number two, a foundation. He got it at the Baylor School with an outstanding wrestling program, an incredible tradition, and the foundation was there for him to become a collegiate athlete and a scholar athlete. He was the greatest wrestler in the history of the State of Tennessee by anyone's standard: a 4-year State champion; 215 victories; 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th State champion all the way through high school at the Baylor School. He had the foundation for the program, and Baylor School is proud.

And, third, faithfulness. He was faithful through the years. He had a goal and he stuck with it. His work

ethic was greater than anyone's. He worked out harder. He fought harder. He suffered more through injuries. He was faithful all the way through. His father in the account said that that whole week of the championship he knew something was different because Jordan had turned the week over to the Lord. He was faithful. He gave it to God and said, I'm here to do my best. I'm sick, but I am here to do my best. And he was honored. And he was faithful.

He's an incredible young man. He's an inspiration to all. He's an excellent student, making a 3.3 at Cornell in premed, and a national collegiate champion in the 157 pound weight class.

Jordan Leen, East Tennessee salutes you. You're one of the greatest athletes in the history of our region. You have reached the climax, but you're still the same guy. And we love you for the example you have set for young people.

Young people, if you want to be a student athlete, follow Jordan Leen. Follow Jordan Leen.

Thank you, Jordan. Your family loves you, and we salute you on the floor of the House tonight.

STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW MAUPIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Keith Matthew Maupin. Yesterday, Keith and Carolyn Maupin learned that the United States Army had positively identified the remains found last week in Iraq as that of their son, Matt Maupin. After nearly 4 years of suffering the torment of not knowing the status of their missing son, I pray that this news may bring some closure to the Maupins and allow them to begin to mourn their loss and celebrate the life that Matt lived.

Keith Matthew Maupin was born in Batavia, Ohio, on July 13, 1983, and was a student at Glen Este High School in Union Township, Clermont County, Ohio, where he played football and was a rower on the county's high school crew team. Matt graduated in 2001 and enrolled in the University of Cincinnati's Aerospace Engineering Program. He joined the United States Army Reserve in 2002, attending basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and completed his advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in the spring of 2003.

After completing his training, Matt continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati while fulfilling his obligations as an Army reservist. In November 2003, Matt received orders to transfer to the recently mobilized 724th Transportation Company based out of Bartonville, Illinois. Matt and the 724th arrived in Kuwait on February 20,

2004. The following month Matt's unit was moved to the Logistics Support Center Anaconda in Balad, Iraq, to begin missions delivering fuel to various coalition bases.

On April 9, 2004, Matt's convoy was ambushed near Baghdad International Airport. The convoy came under fire from small arms, RPGs, and mortar fire. When the convoy was able to move clear of the attack, it was found that nine people were unaccounted for. Later, five civilians and one soldier were found dead, presumed to have been killed during the ambush. One civilian driver had been taken hostage during the ambush but managed to escape his captors a few weeks later. Matt and one civilian contractor remained missing.

On April 16, 2004, Matt appeared in a videotaped broadcast aired on al Jazeera television surrounded by his armed captors. During the brief interview, Matt identified himself as Private First Class Keith Matthew Maupin. From that day forward, Matt's status was listed as a prisoner of war. And the men and women of the Armed Forces, as well as those from various Federal agencies, worked tirelessly to find Matt and secure his return.

The Army has a creed. And within that creed there are four stanzas referred to as the warrior's ethos. This ethos is the standard by which all soldiers conduct themselves. They read as follows:

I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I believe that it was these four stanzas that directed and guided the search for Matt. The mission was to find Matt and return him to his family. I thank Secretary Gates, Secretary Geren, General George Casey, General Petraeus, and all the leaders in the Multi National Forces-Iraq and Joint Special Forces Command for making the mission of finding Matt the number one priority in this Nation. I also think it's important that we thank all the soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen who patrolled the streets of Iraq every day refusing to accept defeat, refusing to quit, and refusing to leave behind our fallen Matt.

I would also like to thank General Jim Campbell, recently retired, who visited with the Maupins on numerous occasions, providing them with updates on the status of the search for Matt. I would also like to thank Major General Galen Jackman and Joe Guzowski for their efforts to keep me informed on the details of their search.

It has been almost 4 years since Matt went missing in Iraq, and through the joint efforts of all these extraordinary people, Matt can finally come home. As Matt's father told me, "Matt is coming home. He has completed his mission." My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. Their torment is replaced with a broken heart, and I ask this Nation to pray that that heart is healed.

May God bless Matt and Matt's family, and may Matt rest in peace.

THE DEMOCRATS' "MAGIC PLAN" TO LOWER GAS PRICES HAS NOT WORKED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, this morning the price of a barrel of oil fell to \$105 after hitting an all-time high of nearly \$112 in the middle of March. Less than 2 years ago, the Democrats promised Americans that they had a magic plan for lowering gas prices, but since they have been in control of Congress, prices have simply gone higher and higher. But at the time, those prices were enough to alarm Americans when Republicans were in the majority.

On the floor of the House and on the campaign trail in districts throughout the Nation, the Democrats seized on those anxieties and pointedly blamed the Republican White House and Congress for rising gas prices. Time and time again, they said they had a magic formula for lowering the cost.

On April 16, 2006, the then-minority leader NANCY PELOSI said in a press release, "The Republican rubber stamp Congress has passed two energy bills, costing taxpayers \$12 billion for giveaways to big oil companies. But the Republican bills clearly have done nothing to lower gas prices, as the price of a barrel of oil has settled above \$70 a barrel, the highest price in our history." The release went on to say, "Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices."

Then the next week another Pelosi release said, "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices. . . ."

When in 2006 the House considered the energy bill to increase domestic production, the Democrats took to this floor in outrage. A Democrat congressman from California said on the floor about the Republican energy bill of 2006, "It is no wonder their initials are G-O-P: gas, oil, and petroleum. . . . It is time House Republicans join us in providing some real relief to the American consumer."

That same day a Democratic Member from Connecticut said, "When it comes to solving the energy crisis, President Bush and his Republican Congress have no credibility. If they had only spent the last 5 years working to reduce demand," like the Democrats have proposed, "by raising fuel standards, rolling back the billions of dollars in tax breaks and royalty relief to the big oil companies, and if they were about promoting alternative fuels, as the Democrats have proposed, we might today be on the road to energy independence instead of bracing ourselves for \$4 gas prices.

Let me put this rhetoric into context, Mr. Speaker. When the Democrats

took over both Houses of Congress in January of 2007, gas prices that month ranged from \$50 to \$60 a barrel for oil. But at the end of 2007, the Democrats' magic plan for lowering gas prices apparently hasn't worked out because today oil is closing at over \$100 a barrel.

But wait, Mr. Speaker. It gets even crazier. A House Appropriations subcommittee this week will be looking at raising gas taxes 25 to 40 cents a gallon.

□ 2000

Seems to me that that makes prices go up 25 to 40 cents a gallon. But what do I know? I've never professed to understand the Democrats' magic formula for lowering gas prices.

On gas prices, as on earmarks, spending, and ethics, the Democrats ran as the Great Crusaders. But they've governed as the Great Pretenders. Democrats have proposed nothing that would do anything but raise gas prices at the pump. Just last month, the House Democrats passed another "no-energy" energy bill in the form of an \$18 billion tax increase on American energy. This marks the fourth time the Democrats have held a vote to raise energy taxes. This sort of agenda will only slow the economy by discouraging domestic energy production and increasing our dependence on foreign nations for our energy.

Our Nation needs energy production to keep our competitive edge in the global marketplace. We all want to achieve breakthroughs in alternative energies that will have a growing importance in the future. But we can't pretend that oil isn't by far the most important fuel in our economy. We have to increase domestic production. We need to give American companies incentive to produce, rather than demonizing them for providing a commodity that our livelihoods depend on.

Let's put American ingenuity to work in the field. And let's put the Democrat's magic formula back on the shelf.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will